

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in distribution of foodgrains at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) level and issue of FPS licences to Self Help Groups (SGs), Gram Panchayats, Cooperatives, etc.; display of all Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists; display of district-wise and Fair Price Shop-wise allocation of foodgrains on websites and other prominent places for public scrutiny; door step delivery of foodgrains; timely availability of foodgrains; computerization of TPDS to ensure distribution of foodgrains in a transparent and effective manner. In addition, the Government has also taken steps to introduce electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of banners/Boards on the wind-shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating details of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.

Amendments in the Essential Commodities Act

295. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delisting of agricultural commodities from the Essential Commodities Act followed by its amendments are followed by an increase in the coverage of futures and forward trading in the agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would have a re-look into the whole issue of amending the Essential Commodities Act in the light of recent abnormal increase in prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No agricultural commodity has been delisted from the Essential Commodities Act since December, 2004. There has also been no addition to agricultural commodities notified for future trading during this period.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.